REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated July 27, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated October 31, 2005. Claim 5 is pending in this application. In the outstanding Office Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). No new matter has been added. Claim 5 is presented for reconsideration.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,352) in view of Nomizu (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,391) and further in view of Tong (U.S. Publication No. US 2003/0088551).

In making this rejection, the Office Action asserts that the combination of these three references teaches and/or suggests the claimed invention. The Office Action also asserts that a person of ordinary skill in the art would combine these three references. Applicants disagree and request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 5 recites in part:

> ...a data-format-conversion means for converting data format of said parent drawing that is stored by said drawing creation system database;
>
> a converted-data database for storing said parent drawing whose data format has been converted by said data-format-conversion means, the converted-data database is separate from the drawing creation system database;
>
> a correlation means for correlating said parent drawing, said drawing-related information and said symmetrical-part information by combining said parent drawing ID information

> of said parent drawing with a first specified ID code to form drawing-related ID information, and attaching this drawing-related ID information to said drawing-related information that corresponds to said part; and by combining said parent drawing ID information of said parent drawing that corresponds to said part with a second specified ID code to form symmetrical-part ID information, and attaching this symmetrical-part ID information to said symmetrical-part information that corresponds to said parent drawing;
>
> a drawing-search database for converting data format of said parent drawing, said drawing-related information and said symmetrical-part information from decimal to hexadecimal information and storing, the drawing-search database is separate from the drawing creation system database and the converted-data database; ...

The above claim elements, with the exception of the drawing-search database and converted-data database elements, are means-plus-function claim elements under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, the prior art must teach the exact function recited in the means-plus-function claim elements in order to anticipate or render obvious a particular claim element.

The Office Action, on page 3, asserts that the data processing device 20, symmetry judging means 21 and symmetrizing processing means 22 perform the function of converting the data format of the parent drawing that is stored by the drawing creation system database. The Office Action also asserts that the data processing device 20, symmetry judging means 21 and symmetrizing processing means 22 store the parent drawing whose data format has been converted by the data-conversion means. Similarly, the Office Action asserts that the data processing device 20, symmetry judging means 21 and symmetrizing processing means 22 perform the function recited for the correlation means.

Saito, at column 10, beginning at line 43, states that the data processing device 20a performs the function of arranging the graphics and modifying the positional relation thereof.

Saito, at column 11, beginning at line 1, also states that the data processing device 20a edits the graphic data of an input graphic according to the instruction of an operator entered from the instructing device 50a. The data processing device 20a includes a symmetry judging means 21a. The symmetry judging means 21a performs the function of judging the line symmetry relation among the entered graphics. The symmetrizing processing means 22 performs the function of arranging the graphics that have been judged to be line-symmetric by the symmetry judging unit 21a into a line-symmetrical shape with respect to a symmetry axis. The symmetry judging unit 21a also performs the function of judging whether graphics that deviate from accurate line-symmetrical shapes or positional relations are symmetrical if the deviation falls within a predetermined range.

In order to arrange the graphics that have been judged to be line-symmetric, the symmetrizing processing means 22 modifies the graphic data so that the shapes of the graphics and the positional relation therebetween may be accurately line-symmetric. Specifically, the symmetrizing processing means 22 alters the characteristic quantities, such as the coordinates of the vertexes stored in the graphic data storage area 31 and updates the contents stored in the graphic data storage area 31.

Consequently, this symmetrizing processing means 22 modifies the graphic data. However, the symmetrizing processing means 22 does not convert the data format of the parent drawing that was stored in the graphic data storage area 31 and storing the

drawing having the new data format in a separate database (i.e., in the converted-data database).

The data processing device 20a performs the function of editing the graphic data according to an instruction of the operator. However, the data processing device 20a does not perform the function of converting the data format of the parent drawing that is stored in the graphic data storage area 31 and storing the drawing having the new data format in a separate database (i.e., in the converted-data database).

The symmetry judging unit 21a performs the function of judging the symmetry of the graphics. However, the symmetry judging unit fails to perform the function of converting the data format of the parent drawing that is stored in the graphic data storage area 31 and storing the drawing having the new data format in a separate database (i.e., in the converted-data database).

Since none of data processing device 20a, symmetry judging means 21a or symmetrizing processing means 22 perform the function of converting the data format of the parent drawing that is stored by the drawing creation system database, Saito fails to teach the function performed by the recited data-format-conversion means.

Saito only discloses a single graphic data storage area 31. In contrast, claim 5 recites 3 different databases: a drawing creation system database; a converted-data database; and a drawing search database. Each of these databases are separate from each other.

As discussed above, none of the data processing device 20, symmetry judging means 21 or symmetrizing processing means 22 correlate the parent drawing, the drawing-related information and the symmetrical-part information by combining the

parent drawing ID information of the parent drawing with a first specified ID code to form drawing-related ID information, and attaching this drawing-related ID information to the drawing-related information that corresponds to the part. Similarly, none of the data processing device 20, symmetry judging means 21 or symmetrizing processing means 22 perform the function of combining the parent drawing ID information of the parent drawing that corresponds to the part with a second specified ID code to form symmetrical-part ID information, and attaching this symmetrical-part ID information to the symmetrical-part information that corresponds to the parent drawing. Therefore, Saito fails to teach the function performed by the recited correlation means.

Neither Tong nor Nomizu is cited as teaching the functions performed by the recited data conversion means or the recited correlation means. Similarly, neither Tong nor Nomizu is cited for storing the parent drawing whose data format has been converted by the data-conversion means.

Regarding the recited drawing-search database, the Office Action fails to identify any element in Saito, Tong or Nomizu that teaches and/or suggests a drawing-search database for converting data format of said parent drawing, said drawing-related information and said symmetrical-part information from decimal to hexadecimal information and storing, where the drawing-search database is separate from the drawing creation system database and the converted-data database.

Consequently, the combination of Saito, Tong and Nomizu fails to teach and/or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, the combination of these three references fails to teach the function of converting data format of said parent drawing that is stored by said drawing creation system database. Consequently, these three references fail to

teach and/or suggest the recited data-format-conversion means. The combination of these three references also fails to teach and/or suggest a converted-data database for storing said parent drawing whose data format has been converted by said data-format-conversion means where the converted-data database is separate from the drawing creation system database.

The combination of these three references also fails to teach the function of correlating said parent drawing, said drawing-related information and said symmetrical-part information by combining said parent drawing ID information of said parent drawing with a first specified ID code to form drawing-related ID information, and attaching this drawing-related ID information to said drawing-related information that corresponds to said part. The combination of these three references also fails to teach and/or suggest the function of combining said parent drawing ID information of said parent drawing that corresponds to said part with a second specified ID code to form symmetrical-part ID information, and attaching this symmetrical-part ID information to said symmetrical-part information that corresponds to said parent drawing. Consequently, the combination of these three references fails to teach and/or suggest the recited correlation means.

The combination of these three references also fails to teach and/or suggest a drawing-search database for converting data format of said parent drawing, said drawing-related information and said symmetrical-part information from decimal to hexadecimal information and storing, the drawing-search database is separate from the drawing creation system database and the converted-data database.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

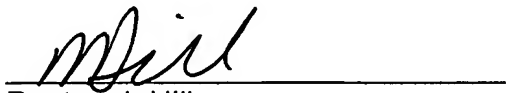
Applicants' amendments and remarks have overcome the rejection set forth in the Office Action dated July 27, 2005. Specifically, Applicants' remarks have distinguished claim 5 from the cited prior art. Accordingly, claim 5 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claim 5.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 024629-00004.

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX PLLC



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